(b) whether any consultations in this regard with the NASSCOM have been held by his Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee was set up by Department of Information Technology to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 and to suggest amendments in the Act. National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) was one of the Members of the Expert Committee.

(c) The major areas considered for providing for amendments/new provisions relate to making the act-technology neutral, explicit provisions for electronic contracts, issues related to child pornography, video voyeurism, liability of network service providers and digital evidence examiner, and the issue related to data privacy and security.

Telephone calls at local call rates

731. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have any scheme to establish telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call;

(b) if so, the technical details of the proposal/scheme; and

(c) by when the concept is likely to materialize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No proposal to establish telephonic communication from one part of the country to the other by local call is under consideration, at present. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has announced an alternate tariff plan, wherein intra-circle and inter-circle long distance calls are to be charged @ Re. 1 per minute with effect from 01-03-2006.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.